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KING AND HERMIT

COLLOQUY BETWEEN KING GUAIRE
OF AIDNE AND HIS BROTHER MARBAN

BEING AN IRISH POEM OF THE TENTH
CENTURY EDITED AND TRANSLATED
BY KUNO MEYER



LONDON
DAVID NUTT, 57-59 LONG ACRE
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P r e f a c e.

THE following poem is here edited and translated for the first time from the only manuscript copy known to me. This is to be found on fo. 42b of Harleian 5280, a wellknown and often described vellum of the British Museum, compiled by various scribes, but mainly by Gilla Riabhach O'Clery, early in the 16th century. The original from which this copy is derived may, on linguistic grounds, be safely assigned to the 10th century.¹⁾

The circumstance that this singularly beautiful poem should have reached us in a single and late copy only is

¹⁾ That our poem was composed in the 10th century, and probably in the early part of that century, is proved by the vitality of the neuter in *bend* 'peak, gable' (Gaul. *bennum* in *Canto-bennum*), dat. *dia bend* (10), *lenn* 'cloak' (ib.), and *mag* 'plain' in *uas maig móethlach* (28); also by the use as disyllables of the following words which in the poetry of the 11th century count as monosyllables:

cúäch 'cup' (6. 22; in 5 for *mo chúach-sa* read *mo chúach*). Cf. *Saltair na Rann*, ll. 6388 and 6390.

cúaid in *docúaid* (7), which according to Zupitza's ingenious analysis (*Zeitschrift* III, p. 276) stands for *do-cú-fáith* (perf. of *do-fethim*). Cf. *Salt.* l. 3297, 4776; monosyllabic in l. 3711, 4745. *dochoid*, 7754.

Dúaid 'David' (7); cf. *Dúid*, SR. 5680. 5713 &c. *Dauíd* 5712. 5718 &c. ZCP. III, 18, 14. 20, 31. 21, 2 &c.

róe 'field' (11), monosyllabic in LL. 144 a 6.

scúäch, gen. of *scé* 'hawthorn' (21), as in LL. 156 b 32: *clíath draigin* is *dergscíäch*.

síen 'strain' (10). See *Festschrift für Stokes*, p. 6.

súaire 'pleasant' (23). Cf. *dúaire*, *Salt.* 5752. Monosyllabic in *Salt.* 5779. 5975.

worthy of consideration. While Irish manuscripts of all times abound with copies of the compositions of school and court-poets, the anonymous poetry of Ireland is but scantily represented in them. It is no doubt this fact among others which has prompted Professor Atkinson's remarks in the Introduction to the Yellow Book of Lecan on the paucity and monotony of Irish literature when compared with the other vernacular literatures of the Middle Ages. But this charge, which has caused much heart burning among the lovers of Irish literature, falls to the ground when two facts are taken into account — the great age of the literature of Ireland, and our imperfect acquaintance with it. It is not permissible to institute a comparison, as Professor Atkinson has done, between Old-Irish literature and that of France, England or Germany in the twelfth and following centuries, while it may legitimately be compared with the national and vernacular literature of those countries before 1100 A. D. It will then be found that the literature of France and Germany during that period has next to nothing to place by its side, while even the rich literature of Anglo-Saxon England is quite thrown into the shade when compared either in wealth or variety with that of early Ireland. As is wellknown, it was the antinational spirit of continental Christianity that led to the neglect of the vernacular literature, while it was probably Irish influence and Irish example that taught the Anglian monk to value his national literature, to write it down and to preserve it.

When speaking of our imperfect acquaintance with Old-Irish literature I refer not only to the great mass of material that has been irretrievably lost — whole legendary cycles revealed by casual references only, tales of which nothing but the title, poems of which the initial lines only have been preserved¹⁾ — but also to what is still extant but unexplored

¹⁾ The metrical treatise of the ninth or tenth century edited by Thurneysen in the third volume of *Irische Texte* contains in illustration

in the manuscripts deposited in the British Museum and the Dublin libraries, to mention only the chief storehouses of Irish literature. It is true, of Irish prose a good deal has been published and translated, so that any one can form an idea of its merits; but for Irish poetry next to nothing has hitherto been done. The metrical festologies, the topographical, historical, chronological, geographical, grammatical, lexicographical compositions, which mainly for philological reasons have received the first attention of editors, do not represent Irish poetry. They were written for purposes of instruction or as a *memoria technica* by learned professors at the monastic schools. Indeed, the true appreciation of the merits of Irish poetry has often been obscured by the fact that metrical productions of this class have been taken as the offspring of the Irish Muse. But Oengus the Culdee, Flann of Monasterboice, Mac Coisse and Gorman are not the great poets of Ireland. Their works loom large indeed in our manuscripts, but they were copied so busily for the sake of the information which they conveyed in a convenient form. Meanwhile the genuine poetry of Ireland, which is to be found in such anonymous poems as the one here published, was relegated to the margins and blank spaces of vellum manuscripts, or, written on paper, has the more easily disappeared. What is left of such poetry is rarely to be met with in the great and celebrated tomes; it has to be searched for.

It may be safely predicted that these anonymous and neglected poems, once properly collected, edited and translated will strongly appeal to all lovers of poetry. There is in them such delicate art, so subtle a charm, so true and deep a note, that, with the exception of the master-pieces of Welsh poetry, I know nothing to place by their side. The poem here published affords a good example of that marvellous descriptive art of Irish poets, which they share with the Welsh

of the various metres no less than 340 quotations from poems, very few of which have, so far as I know, been preserved in their entirety.

bards. As the Old Woman of Beare¹⁾ draws her imagery from the flood-tide and ebb-tide of the wide Atlantic, so our poet, like Dafydd ap Gwilym, turns to the open beauty and hidden charms of woodland scenery. These he calls up before us like an impressionist by light and skilful touches in a quick succession of images and pictures. An element of subtle humour also enters, of ever varying fancy, or a pathetic turn. Such poems are the despair of the translator.

It is fortunate that the single manuscript copy of our poem is carefully and accurately written. The lacunae in my translation are due, not to a corrupt text, but to our imperfect knowledge of the older language.

With regard to the personages mentioned in the poem, the following facts are known about them.

King Guaire mac Colmain of Aidne²⁾ is a wellknown historical character. He was a powerful king of Connaught in the seventh century,³⁾ and early became the centre of a cycle of stories several of which have come down to us.⁴⁾ The Life of St. Cellach⁵⁾ represents him as a treacherous and revengeful ruler; but his unbounded generosity was proverbial. In a hitherto inedited poem ascribed to Colum Cille, which I print in Appendix I, his conversion to the practice of liberality is said to have been brought about by that saint, though this of course involves an anachronism.

¹⁾ The Song of the Old Woman of Beare, edited and translated in *Otia Merseiana* vol. I, pp. 119—128 (Wohlleben, London, 1899).

²⁾ The ancient name of a district coextensive, according to O'Donovan, with the diocese of Kilmaedugh in the county of Galway.

³⁾ The Annals record his death under the year 662 A.D. The Book of Leinster in a list of the kings of Connaught (p. 41a) gives the duration of his reign as twelve years. He seems to have succeeded his brother Laidnén mac Colmain in 650 (see the Four Masters sub anno).

⁴⁾ Such as the Battle of Carn Conaill (ed. Stokes, *Zeitschrift für Celt. Phil.* III, pp. 203—219); the story of Guaire and Oennu (*Silva Gad.* II, p. 437); the story of Mac Teline (Yellow Book of Lecan p. 133b and Harl. 5280, fo. 25a).

⁵⁾ See *Silva Gad.* II, pp. 50—69.

Guairé's half-brother Marbán 'turned his back upon the world', as the Irish phrase is, and led the life of a recluse, combining with it, according to the story called *Imthecht na Tromdáime*,¹⁾ the herding of his brother's swine, whence perhaps the repeated mention of those animals in our poem, as well as the introduction of the *cráin* or sow, evidently Marbán's household pet, in the fifth and sixth stanzas. Glenn in Scáil is said to have been his favourite abode.²⁾

Of the fosterbrothers mentioned in the fourth stanza Ailirán is the celebrated saint with the cognomen 'of the Wisdom' (*ind ccaí*), who died A. D. 664 of the yellow plague called *Buide Conaill*. Laidgén or Laidgnén³⁾ the Leper (*Lobor* or *Clam*), the son of Báithbandach, was an ecclesiastic at Clonfert-Mulloe or Kyle in the Queen's County, where he died in 661. Oengus the Culdee calls him 'the explainer of Christ's mysteries', and perhaps he was the 'Ladkenus Hibernensis' who, according to Denis, made an abstract from the *Moralia* of Gregory the Great.

Of Ornait nothing is known; but a quatrain lamenting the death of Laidgnén is ascribed to her in Cormac's Glossary. (See Appendix II.)

Which of the several Lugna mentioned by Gorman and in the notes to the *Félire* of Oengus is the one appearing in our poem I have no means to determine; nor do I know anything about Cluithnechán.

¹⁾ Marbhán mucaidhe prímfáidh nimhe 7 talmhan, agus fa mac máthar do Ghuaire hé 7 is é ba mucaidh do Ghuaire. Agus is airi 'na mhucaidh ar comadh usaide dó creidimh 7 crábhadh do dhénamh bleith 'na mhucaidh a bhfeadhaibh 7 a bhfásaighibh, Oss. Soc. V, p. 46.

²⁾ See Oss. Soc. V, pp. 48 and 88.

³⁾ Also spelt Laidcenn. See Stokes, *Irish Glosses*, p. 133.

K. M.

[Gúaire.]

1. A Maruáin, a dīthriubaig,
cid nā cotla for colcaid?
pa menci doid fess amoig,
cend¹⁾ doroig for lár ochtgaigh.

[Marbán.]

2. Nicon cotluim for colcaid
gē bethear com imslānud:
atāid sochaidi²⁾ amoig
atraice hocim imrādud.
3. Nī marutt ar comolta,
scarad frīu nīnlūaidi:
acht mād oīnsessor namā
nī ma[i]r nech dīouh, a Gúaire!
4. Ornait ocus Lugna lān,
Laidgen ocus Ailirān,
atā cechturde fri dān,
Marbān ocus Cluit[h]nechān.
5. Rochluinis mo tiomna-sa
frie hūair techta don³⁾ domun:
mo qhūach-sa dīn⁴⁾ dīt[h]rebach,
mo chrāin do Laidgēn lobhor.

¹⁾ *cedn* MS.

²⁾ Added on upper margin.

³⁾ leg. dīn.

⁴⁾ leg. mo chúach don.

Guaire.

1. O Marban, O hermit,
Why dost not thou sleep upon a quilt?
More often thou sleepest abroad,
Thy head stretched upon a pitch-pine floor.

Marban.

2. I do not sleep upon a quilt
Though it were for my health's sake:¹⁾
There are many abroad
Who come to share my meditations.²⁾
3. Our fosterbrothers live no more,
Parting from them does not move us:
Save a single six only
Not one of them remains, O Guaire!
4. Ornait and Lugna the perfect,
Laidgen and Ailiran,
Both of them are at their work,³⁾
Marban and Cluithnechan.
5. Thou hast already heard my bequest
At the hour of leaving the world:⁴⁾
This cup of mine to the hermit,
My household pet to Laidgen the leper.

¹⁾ Literally, 'though one were at making me healthy'.

²⁾ Literally, 'who rise at my meditating'.

³⁾ Cf. *Messe ocus Pangur bán*, *cechtar náthar fria saindán*, *Ir. Texte*
p. 136.

⁴⁾ Cf. in *úair techta don talmain*, *Cath Finntr.* p. 89.

6. Mo scīan is mo spedudhud,¹⁾
 ma trebad i Tūoim Aidhe[h]i,
 mo loure, mo *chrāin*, mo cūach,
 mo tīag *lethoir*, mo cairchi.

[Gúaire.]

7. A Maruāin, a dīthriubaig,²⁾
 cid dia tiomna docūaid,
 dī don fīor *cerda* a rath,
 acht a brath do Mac Dāuid.

[Marbán.]

8. Atā ūarboith dam hi coild
 nīsfītīr³⁾ *acht* mo Fīadai:
 uimius disiū, coll anall,
 bili rātha nosnīoadai.
9. A dā ersainn frāich fri fulong,
ocus fordorus fēthe:
feruid in coill imma cress
 a mes for muca méthe.⁴⁾
10. Mett mo boithi becc nāt beg,
 ba ili sett sognath:
 canuid sīen bind die bend
 ben al-lemm co lon-dath.
11. Leangoid doim Droma Rolach
 assa⁵⁾ sruth rōe-glan:
foderc essib⁶⁾ Roigne rūadh,
 Mucraimi mūd, Maonmag.

¹⁾ leg. spetugud?

²⁾ dītr-uip MS.

³⁾ nīsfītīr MS.

⁴⁾ méche MS.

⁵⁾ leg. issa.

⁶⁾ leg. essi, viz. from the hut.

6. My knife and my *spetugud*,¹⁾
 My dwelling in Tuaim Aidchi,
 My cudgel, my pet, my cup,
 My leathern satchel, my musical instrument.

Guaire.

7. O Marban, O hermit,
 Though the hour has come to make thy will, —
 To the craftsman his reward,²⁾
 But His betrayal to David's Son.

Marban.

8. I have a shieling in the wood,
 None knows it save my God:
 An ashtree on the hither side, a hazelbush beyond,
 A huge old tree³⁾ encompasses it.
9. Two heath-clad doorposts for support,
 And a lintel of honeysuckle:
 The forest around its narrowness sheds
 Its mast upon fat swine.
10. The size of my shieling tiny, not too tiny,
 Many are its familiar paths:
 From its gable a sweet strain sings
 My lady in her cloak of the ousel's hue.
11. The stags of Oakridge leap
 Into the river of clear banks:
 Thence red Roigne⁴⁾ can be seen,
 Glorious Mucraime and Maenmag.⁵⁾

¹⁾ This is, to me, a *ἄραξ λεγόμενον*.

²⁾ I can make nothing of *dí*. See the Glossary.

³⁾ Literally 'an old tree of a *rath*', such a tree as grows on a *rath*. Cf. in less mbilech, Imr. Brain, p. 56, 17. Aisl. M. p. 69, 15.

⁴⁾ A plain in the present barony of Kells, co. Kilkenny. Cf. gabsat ráim ós Raigní rúad, LL. 201 b 34. tulchad Ráigne rúaid, ib. 47 a 24.

⁵⁾ Wellknown plains in Connaught.

12. Mennután dīamuir desruid
die mbī sealb sētrōis:
die dēxin nī raga liom,
rufinnfet a cētmōuis.
13. Mong celiubair iubair éou-glais
noasta cēl:
cāin in magan, māurglas darach
darsin sīn.
14. Aboll ubull, mār a rath,
mbruigne¹⁾ mbras:
barr dess dornach collān cnōbeac²⁾
crōebach nglas.
15. Glere fīrtiprat es ouisci
nais do dīg:
bruindit [b]ioulair, cōera iobair,
fidhuid³⁾ fir.
16. Foilgid impe mucai centa,
cadlaid, oirc,
muca allta, oiss airccellti,⁴⁾
bruinech bruic.
17. Buidnech sithech, slua^g tromm tirech,
dāl dom tigh:
ina ere[h]oill tecoid cremt[h]aim,
aluind sin!

¹⁾ leg. mbuidnech.

²⁾ croibgech nó cnobeac MS.

³⁾ caora nó fidhuid MS.

⁴⁾ leg. airgelti.

12. Hidden, lowly little abode,
Which has possession of . . . ,
To behold it will not be granted 'me,
Yet I shall be able to find its . . .¹⁾
13. A hiding mane of a green-barked yew-tree
Which supports the sky:
Beautiful spot! the large green of an oak
Fronting the storm.
14. A tree of apples — great its bounty!
Like a hostel,²⁾ vast:
A pretty bush, thick as a fist, of tiny hazelnuts,
Branching, green.
15. A choice pure spring and princely water
To drink:
There spring watercresses, yew-berries,
Ivy-bushes of a man's thickness.
16. Around it tame swine lie down,
Goats, pigs,
Wild swine, grazing deer,
A badger's brood.
17. A peaceful troop, a heavy host of denizens of the soil,
Atrysting at my house:
To meet them foxes come,
How delightful!

¹⁾ I am unable to translate *sétrois* and *cétmois*.

²⁾ Cf. Uhland's poem *Einkchr*, beginning:

*'Bei einem Wirte wundermild,
Da war ich jüngst zu Gaste,
Ein goldner Apfel war sein Schild
An einem langen Aste.'*

18. Cāine *flathu* *tecoid mo teg,*
 tarccud tric:
 uisci iodun, barrā[i]n bit[h]chai,
 bratā[i]n, pric.
19. Barrān cōert[h]ainn, *airne dubui,*
 droigin duind,
 tūari, dercna, cōera loma,
 lecna loim.
20. Līne huoga, *mil, mes melle,*
 Dīa dotrōidh:
 ubla mildsi, mōnninn dercui,
 derena frōich.
21. Couirm co luouhair, *logg di sūbuip,*
 somblas snōa,
 sīoluch scīach, dercu iuech,
 airni, cnōa.
22. Cūach co medh *collain, condla,*
 condal ndaith,
 durchain donna, dristin mongu,
 mertain maith.
23. Mad fri samrad *suaire snobrat*
 somblas mblas,
 curar, oreāin, foltain glaise,
 glaine glas.
24. Ceōla fer mbrundederg *forflan,*
 forom ndil,
 dordan smōlcha, cōei gnathc[h]ai
 uós mo tigh.

18. Fairest princes come to my house.
A ready gathering!
Pure water, perennial bushes,
Salmon, trout.¹⁾
19. A bush of rowan, black sloes,
Dusky blackthorns,
Plenty of food, acorns, pure berries,
Bare flags.
20. A clutch of eggs, honey, delicious mast,
God has sent it:
Sweet apples, red whortle-berries,
Berries of the heath.
21. Ale with herbs, a dish of strawberries,
Of good taste and colour,
Haws, berries of the yew,
Sloes, nuts.
22. A cup with mead of hazelnut, blue-bells,
Quick-growing rushes,
Dun oaklets, manes of briar,
Goodly sweet tangle.
23. When pleasant summertime spreads its coloured mantle,
Sweet-tasting fragrance!
Pignuts, wild marjoram, green leeks,
Verdant pureness!
24. The music of the bright redbreasted men,
A lovely movement!
The strain of the thrush, familiar cuckoos
Above my house.

¹⁾ Or, perhaps, 'speckled salmon'. Cf. *écne brecc*, *Imr. Br.* 54. *ich bricc*, *ib.* 38.

25. Tellinn, ciárainn, certán cruinde,
crōnān se[i]mh:
 gigrāind, cadhoin, gair rē samuīn,
se[i]nm gairuh cēir.
26. Caincinn gestlach, drūi donn descclach
 don *crāib* cuild,
 cochvill ālainn, snaic-ar-daraigh,
 aidbli druing.¹⁾
27. Tecait cāinfinn, corra, fāilinn,
 foscain cūach,
 nī ceōul ndoccrāi, cercai odrai
 a frāech rūad.
28. Rascach sambaisci a samradh,
 svillsiv sīon!
 nī serb sōet[h]rach ūas moig mōethlach
 mellach mīn.
29. Fogar gāithi frie fiod flescach
 forglas neol,
 essa abhai, essnad ealao,
 alaind ceoul.
30. Caine ailme ardommpetead,
 ní 'arna chrec:
 do Crisd gecach²⁾ nī mesa dam
 olttās det.
31. Cid maith let-sa a ndomel-siv,
 mō cech māin,
 buidech liom-sa doberr dam-sa
 ōm *Christ* cāin.

¹⁾ draing MS.

²⁾ geca- with mark of aspiration, MS.

25. Swarms of bees and chafers, the little musicians of the world,
A gentle chorus:
Wild geese and ducks, shortly before summer's end,¹⁾
The music of the dark torrent.
26. An active songster, a lively wren
From the hazelbough,
Beautiful hooded birds, woodpeckers,
A vast multitude!
27. Fair white birds come, herons, seagulls,
The cuckoo sings in between, —
No mournful music! — dun heathpoults
Out of the russet heath.
28. The lowing of heifers in summer,
Brightest of seasons!
Not bitter, toilsome over the fertile plain,
Beautiful, smooth!
29. The voice of the wind against the branchy wood
Upon the deep-blue sky:
Cascades of the river, the note of the swan,
Delightful music!
30. The bravest band makes music to me,
Who have not been hired:
In the eyes of Christ the ever-young I am no worse off
Than thou art.
31. Though thou rejoicest in thy own pleasures,
Greater than any wealth,
I am grateful for what is given me
From my good Christ.

¹⁾ Cf. hi féil Ciaráin maic in tsáir | tecait giugraind dar fairge úair
LL. 356 marg. sup. St. Ciaran's day is the 9th September.

32. Cen huair n-augrai, cin delm debt[h]a
immo¹⁾ toich,
buidech don Flaith dobeir cec[h] maith
dam im boith.

[Gūaire.]

33. Dobér-sa mo rīgi rān
lam qhuid²⁾ comhoirb-siv Colmáin,
a dīlsiv co hūair mo bāis
ar beth at gnāis, a Marbāin!
A Marbāin .a.

¹⁾ inmo MS.

²⁾ i. e. chuid.

32. Without an hour of fighting, without the din of strife
In my house,
Grateful to the Prince who giveth every good
To me in my bower.

Guairé.

33. I would give my glorious kingship
With my share of Colman's heritage, —
To the hour of my death let me forfeit it
So that I may be¹⁾ in thy company, O Marban!

¹⁾ Literally, 'for being'.

Glossary.

- ab** f. *a river*. gen. *essa abhai*, 29. See my Contributions and add: *ar brú Aba Móri*, LL. 353a.
- aball** f. *a tree*. *aboll ubull an apple-tree*, 14.
- aidble** f. *vastness*. *aidble druing vastness of a crowd*, 26.
- airne** *a sloe*. n. pl. *airní*, 21. *na háirní*, LL. 297a38. *áirne dubdroigin*, SG. 102, 5.
- air-geilt** *grazing*. gen. *airceallti?* 16. But see Contributions s. v. *air-cheltach* (1).
- ar-petim** *I make music*. *ar-dom-petet they make music to me*, 30. *arus-pettet*, LU. 57 b 20. *arpetitis*, ZCP. III, 39, 15.
- barrán** m. *a top-branch, twig, bush*, 18. 19. *fri dath barrán sobairchi*, YBL. 127 b 25. *barrán bude*, ib. 27.
- ben** f. *woman*, used of a female bird, 10. Cf. *fer*, 24.
- bend** n. *peak, gable*. dat. *dia bend*, 10.
- bilar** *watercress* = *biror*, Wi. n. pl. *bilair*, 15.
- bithach?** *everlasting?* *barráin bithchai*, 18?
- both** f. *a hut, cabin, shieling*. gen. *boithe*, 10. dat. *boith*, 32.
- breec** m. *a trout*. n. pl. *bricc*, 18. *bric ciardubha* (leg. *ciardubha?*), FM. 866 (p. 510). *bric fa brúachaib a habann*, SG. 102, 11.
- broce** m. *a badger*. gen. *bruice*, 16.
- bruicnech** n. *a badger's brood or nest, a badger-warren?* 16.
- bruidnech** *like a hostel* (*bruiden*), 16.
- bruinim** *I spring forth, dart, shoot*. *brúindit*, 15.
- brunne-derg** *red-breasted*. *fer br. a robin redbreast*, 24.
- buidnech** n. *a troop, band*, 17.
- cadan** m. *a barnacle duck*. n. pl. *cadain*, 25. gen. *elta chadan ná chorr* LL. 265 a 48. *cand .i. cadán*, LU. 67 a 24. LL. 71 b 19.
- cadla** *a goat*. .i. *gabhar*, O'Cl. n. pl. *cadlaid*, 16.

- caincinn** 26, the name of some singing bird. Cf. cáince *melody*, Stokes, Acallaim Index. (Ir. Texte IV, p. 385.)
- caíne** f. *goodness, excellence*. cáine flatho, 18. cáine ailme, 30. tucad cáine bíd dóib, LL. 54 b 35. See Imram Brain, Index s. v.
- cáin-áinn** 27, *fair-white*, the name of some bird.
- caireche** a *musical instrument*, 6. cairchi ciúil chóir, LL. 154 b 45.
- cél** *sky*, 13. Borrowed from Lat. *caelum*.
- ceiliubair** 13, seems O'Reilly's *ceilubhra* (sic) *concealment*.
- cennaid** *tame*. cendaíd, Ir. Texte III, 86. n. pl. f. centa, 16. There is also a nom. sing. cennta (cf. *allta*, *Contrib.*). ár cenntai 7 altai, AU.
- certán** = *cerddán*, diminutive of *cerdd* (1) *art*, (2) *artist, artificer musician*, 25. mingur gringur certan cruinne, O'Mulc. 830e.
- cét-móis** 12?
- ciar** *dark, brown, swarthy*. Wi. fiach ciar, Bor. 81. gen. m. céir, 25. f. circi céiri, MR. 110, 5. dat. din chaill chéir, LL. 356 m. sup. etir móin céir 7 cráib, ib. 265 a 46.
- ciarann** m. a *chafer*. n. pl. ciarainn, 25. Cf. ciaróc a *chafer*, O'Br. a diminutive of ciar.
- cnó-bee** *having small nuts*, 14.
- cochull** m. the name of a bird, so called from cochull *hood*. n. pl. cochuill, 26.
- collán** m. a *hazelnut*, 14. gen. med colláin *mead made out of the hazelnut*, 22. Cf. Nóisi co mid chollán chain *Noisi with delicious mead of hazelnuts*, Longes mac nUsn. 17 (Ir. Texte I, p. 77, 15).
- com-orb** m. *heritage*. gen. comoirb, 33.
- condal** n. a *stalk, rush*, 22. A diminutive coinline occurs Trip. 84, 8.
- condla** (n. pl.), 22 = coinnle corra *bluebells*, Hogan, Luibhleabhrán, p. 17?
- cráin** f. *the female of several animals, a sow*, P. O'C. a *goose*, O'R. craíneóg now means a *hedgehog*. In v. 5 and 6 it evidently means some pet animal such as hermits were wont to have about them. gen. orce cránai, LB. 201 b 35. BB. 469 a 17. adba crána, Acall. (ed. Stokes) l. 497 note. gen. pl. secht két cráin, BR. 64.
- cremthann** m. a *fox*. crimthann, Metr. Gloss. n. pl. cremthainn, 17.
- cress** (1) *narrow*. ní haide chress, LL. 161 b 2. (2) a *narrow place*, 9.
- cúach** a *cuckoo*, 27. gen. pl. allgaire cúach, LL. 298 a 1. coiccetal na bindguth cúach it chomnaide, ib. 193 a 37.
- curar** 23. This I take to be the word from which we have the diminutive cularán *pigmy, earthenut* (RC. IX, p. 228), Welsh *cylor*. For the interchange between *r* and *l* cf. biror, later bilar *watercress*, Corn. *beler*, and ílar *eagle*, W. *eryr*.
- daith** *ready, smart, swift, eager*, 22. i. ésgaidh nó tapaidh nó luath, O'Cl. gilla daith ba garb re goil a *smart lad that was rough in*

fight, Eg. 90, 17a. *mina fagar cabair ndaith unless I get speedy help*, Eg. 1782. *leis rogaet co daith*, LL. 18 a 3, 201 b 24. *in drúí daith*, 197 a 2.

dere *an acorn or mast, hence any berry*, P. O'C. n. pl. *dercu*, 21. *glandes .i. dercu*, H. 3. 18, p. 65c.

dercu *a berry*. n. pl. *dercna*, 19. *dercna fréich*, 20 = *derce* [f]ruich gl. *vaccinia*, Bucolics 101; *dærcæ fréich gl. vaccinia*, Sg. 49 a 10. *dercain a dithruib*, LL. 297 a 33. *derccain donn a drumnecha*, Dinds. 160. *dat. nóí cét míach a thorud de direnaib*, ib.

desclach adj. 26, a derivative of *descol*, LL. 45 a 34, which O'Curry renders by *battle*.

desruíd *mean, despicable*, 12. *desruith .i. dísruth .i. ní sruth*, Corm. p. 16. n. pl. *cet lim cenptis desruithe*, RC. XIII, p. 393. Cf. ib. p. 397.

dí? 7. Cf. *do dí¹⁾ at óenbé ocum?* RC. XI, 129.

do-fóidim *I send*. *Día do-t-r-óid 'tis God who has sent it*, 20. *bes is Dia dodroid*, YBL. 133 a 48. *is mithig dúib anddoroided dúib do thomailt*, ib. 51. *is uad doroided a mbiad*, ib. 133 b 2.

donn *dun*. *drúí donn*, 26. Cf. *dreaghan donn a wren*, Highl. n. pl. *droigin duind*, 19. *durcháin donna*, 22. In SG. 102, 4 it is likewise an epithet of an oak: *ar a dairghib donnaib ('russet')*.

dordán *strain, tune*. *dordán smolecha*, 24. *oe ullán 7 oe dordan*, LB. 136 a 36. *dam dían ag dordán*, SG. 172, 5.

dornach *like a fist*, 14.

draigen *a blackthorn, a sloe-tree*, n. pl. *droigin*, 19. *airní draigin gl. pruna*, Bucol. 103. *sméra is áirne dubdroigin*, SG. 102.

dristen *briars, brambles*. *dristin*, 22. Hence *dristenach gl. dumetum*, Sg. 53a.

drúí donn *a wren*, 26. Cf. *dreaghan (= dreén, LB. 108b) donn*, Highl.

durchán m. *an oaklet*. n. pl. *durcháin*, 22.

ela *a swan*. Wi. 29. LU. 62 b 6. *mar hela irricht aingil gil*, SR. 1671. *commuall na n-ela don tuind*, LL. 298 a 31.

eó (1) *a tree*; (2) *a yew-tree*. Wi. (1) *rop éo úasind fíd, ropo rigda ind rail*, LL. 147 a 32. (2) *gen. dercu iuech*, 21. Cf. *caera an ibhair craigi berries of the juniper*, RC. IX, 234. *dat. eu*, RC. XIII, 460, § 62.

eo-glas *having a grey or green trunk*, 13. *eu .i. stipes*, Sg. 66 b 3.

erchoill = *airchill, airichill* (ex *airfochill*) *preparing oneself, expecting*, 17.

¹⁾ This is also the reading of a second copy of *Uath Beinne Etair* in Betham 145, p. 13.

esnad *music, strain, song.* Wi. esnad elo, 29. esnad daim duind, 31. n. pl. Esnada Tigi Buchat, LL. 271 a.

ess n. *a waterfall.* Wi. gen. fuaime essa na sroth, Ir. Texte III, p. 195. fogur essa úair ra hall, LL. 298 a 13. enguba essa ra hall, ib. 28. n. pl. essa abai, 29. acc. na hessa, LL. 264 a 7.

failenn *a sea-gull.* foilenn, Wi. gl. alcedo, Karlsr. Prisc. 34 a. fichi ugh fáilind, BR. 244. n. pl. fáilinn, 27. fairrge rúad a ngairit faoilind, Reeves Ad. 289, 6. fregrait fáilinn 'má finmall, SG. 102, 12. gen. slúag na failend, ib.

féith *woodbine, honeysuckle.* Wi. mar nascas féith fidu, LL. 86 b 23. 103 a 19. amail tincillus féth fidh, Eg. 1782, 24 a 1. gen. féthe, 9.

fidu see idu.

flescach *branchy,* 29.

foderc *visible, conspicuous,* 11.

foltán 23, a shortened diminutive form of folt-chiab *leek* (lit. *hair-tuft*), as dobrán is of doborchú.

for-dorus m. *lintel,* 9. fordorus bec úas a chind, LL. 278 b 1. SG. 111, 31.

garb n. *a torrent.* W. garw. gen. seimn gairb chéir, 25. In the Boroma the word is feminine: gáir na gairbe, LL. 297 b 50. sniges risin gairb a glór, 298 a 22.

géacach 30, if I extend the contraction correctly, is a derivative of *géc* *branch* and seems to mean *flourishing, vigorous, keen.* di chumaid gaind géacig glúair, LL. 194 b 60. Also géeda in a similar sense: in gasraid gegda sin, BB. 461 b 21. the burghoned branch

gestlach *active,* 26. From gestal *a deed,* O'R. Wi. co ngestul grimm, LL. 212 b 28.

gigrand *a wild goose, a barnacle goose.* giugramn, Wi. n. pl. gigraind, 25. giugraind gergga coerait gáir, LL. 297 b 45. tecaít giugraind, LL. 356 marg. sup. gen. elta giugrand [n]gúr, 265 a 49.

glaise f. *greenness.* gen. glaise, 23.

glére f. *excellence,* 15. gléri læch lomngúinech, BB. 476 b 38. dáig rachnala glére a gal, LL. 157 b 16.

idan *pure.* uisce idan, 18.

idu *ivy.* W. eiddeu. mar nascas idu feda *as ivy binds trees,* LL. 108 b 46. With prothetic *f,* n. pl. fiduid, 15.

im-slánim *I make healthy, sound.* inf. imslánud, 2.

lenn n. *a cloak, mantle.* dat. il-lenn co londath, 10. Cf. brat brain, lemm luin luim lúammaig *a raven's cloak, the mantle of a lean volatile ousel,* H. 3. 18, p. 17 m. sup.

lethar m. *leather.* gen. tiag lethair, 6.

line f. *a line, row*. line do crandaib, RC. IX, p. 464. line oga *a clutch of eggs*, 20. coméis lini óenchrice d'ugaib, Cog. G. 48, 19.

long f. *a vessel*. logg. 21.

lubar n. *a collective of lub herb*. gen. lubair, 21.

magan = *magen* f. *place, spot*, 13.

mellach *delightful*. Wi. 28.

melle f. *delight*, 20.

menie *frequent*. Wi. Compar. menci, 1. bá harget anas mencu bitis, LL. 201 b 58.

mennután *a small dwelling*, 12. Dim. of mennat, Wi. nirbo mennat nach détlai, FM. 566. dat. asin mendut, LB. 204 a 41.

mertan = smertan *sweet tangle, sea belt?* Hogan, Luibhleabhrán p. 71. n. pl. mertain, 22.

méth adj. *fat*. Wi. in bó méth, O'Dav. 60, 5. acc. pl. méthe, 9. mná metha, LL. 215 a 27.

móethlach *fruitful, fertile*, 28. From móethal *fruit*. See Aisl. Maic Congl. Index.

mónann *a whortleberry, cranberry*. n. pl. mónuinn derca, 20. mónaind na móna, LL. 297 a 31. monainn mháetha ar a mongaib, SG. 102, 3. Cf. mónadán mínehorera *a smooth-crimson whortleberry*, Tor. Dhiarm. 60, 3.

moug f. *a mane*. n. pl. monga, 22. mónainn mháetha ar a mongaib *on her waving heather*, SG. 102, 3.

ochtgach *a pine*. gen. ochtgaig, 1. ochtgach as ardu alailiu gl. habies, Bibl. Nat. MS. Lat. 7260, fo. 9b. A derivative of ochtach .i. crand giúis, Laws IV, 148, 5. 150, 4. ailm .i. crann giúis .i. ochtach, BB. 325 a 50. gen. do chrund ochtga, ACC.

orcán¹⁾ *wild marjoram*, 23. cardinis benedictus (labrum Veneris) .i. an t-orcán, RC. IX, 228. Spelt oragán in Hogan's Luibhleabhrán p. 59.

rail f. *an oak*. ropo rígda ind rail, LL. 147 a 32. gen. daim Droma Rolach, 11. gesca ralach rodirge, 108 a 22. gen. pl. frema na ralach romór, LL. 264 a 2.

rascach n. *lowing*, 28. Cf. rasc *talk*, O'R.

róë-glan *having pure fields*, 11.

scé *a hawthorn*. scí, Wi. in scé im-mullach Odba, FM. 607. gen. sciach (two syll.), 21. imar cráibred dergsciach, LU. 80 a 8.

¹⁾ There is also a word *orcán* 'apple' — orcan (.i. uball) cruind glas, Hib. Min. p. 47.

sét-roís 12? Perhaps the gen. of sét-róus (for *ro-fiss) *great knowledge of roads?*

siün *voice, sound*, 10. sían, Wi.

sín f. (1) *weather, season*. cia etergén sína? LL. 345a. sína each threimse, 293b. dech do sínaib ceó, 345a. nauna 7 gortai 7 sína sóeba, Harl. 5280, 39a. (2) *bad weather, storm*. Wi. darsin sín, 13. glór na gáethi tresin sín, LL. 298a 23. sín ná snigi ná snechtæ, Goid. 19, 29. ima lúaidfe ilar sín, FM. 526.

síthech *peaceful*, 17.

smólaech f. *a thrush*. gen. smólcha, 24.

snac-ar-daraig m. *a woodpecker*. snacardarach (perperam), O'R. n. pl. snaicardaraigh, 26.

snó *colour*. snoa, 21.

snó-brat *having a coloured mantle*, 23.

so-mblas *sweet-tasting*. Wi. 21. 23. Hence somblasta, Alex. 1007.

spedughud = petugud with prothetic *s*, verb noun of petaigim, a derivative of petim *I play?* Some musical instrument?

sub f. *a strawberry*. sub talman *Erdbeere*, RC. IX, p. 233. snib, O'Br. n. pl. fraga .i. subí, Bucolics 8. suba, LL. 297 a 40. subha cumhra Cuain Daire, O'Gr. Cat. 429. dat. subaib, 21.

tellenn *a swarm of bees*. mar teilleann a' labhairt i n-eibhioll *like a swarm of bees buzzing in the summer-heat*, O'Curry Lect. III, p. 357. n. pl. tellinn, 25. ba lir bech-teilleoin¹⁾ *as numerous as a swarm of bees*, Dinds. 126 = SG. II, 476, 34. Cf. seillean, Highl.

tiag *a satchel*. tiag lethair, 6.

tírech *terrestris*, 17.

trice *eager, quick, keen, ready*. Wi. dar trethan trice, LL. 154 a 14. bid toirthrech dó in talam tric, BR. 8. tánic co trice trén traig-éscaid ina agid, TTr. 2019. ciarbo tric leo, Trip. 556, 11. nirbo trice i clud chille, LL. 5b.

úais *noble*. uais do dig *noble to drink*, 15. nais .i. úasal, LL. 392d. Lism. L. Index.

úar-boith f. *an outhouse, shieling*, 8.

ubull f. *an apple*. n. pl. ubla, 20. gen. aboll ubull, 14.

uinnius *an ashtree*, 8. umnius, LL. 200 a 10, 16.

¹⁾ This form seems to have been influenced by én *bird*.

Appendix.

I.

Colum Cille and Guaire.

(Laud 615, p. 23.)

Colum Cille cecinit ag tegusg Gūaire, or nī derna einech
reime sin 7 ba rofīal ōsin amach trē bennachtain Coluim Cille
7 treana theagasg.

Dēna, a Ghūaire, maith um ní,
na seoid dochī as dorn im ceō:
at aonur tanaig tū a clī,
dogebha ní an fad bia beō.

Sgāil, a maic Colmāin, do cradh,
is buaine blad inā seoid:
antē da tabair Dīa ní,
nī maith rí 's a beth gu neoid.

A deghmhic Colmāin na gelīar,
mochen is fīal, maing is gann,
nā cuir sedh 'san saoghal sunn
's gan acht seal gach aoinfir ann.

Rigrad domhain, cuma a n-ég,
muna bhronnad sēd is biadh,
muna chosnat fēin a mbladh,
nī téid ar nem fer dūr dīan. De.

Is mē Colum Cille cáidh,
beg do connmhús am lāim fein:
ōn lō fa tānag a clī
nī dernus acht do deōin Dē. Dena a Guaire.

Translation.

Colum Cille sang (this) when teaching Guaire, who had never before practised generosity, but henceforward, through the blessing of Colum Cille and his teaching, became most generous.

Do good, O Guaire, for something!
The wealth thou seest is like a hand round mist:
Alone thou camest into thy body,
Thou wilt get something while thou art alive.

Distribute, O Colman's son, thy goods,
More lasting is fame than wealth:
He to whom God giveth something,
A king that is niggardly is not good.

O brave son of Colman of the bands,
Welcome is a generous man, woe to a mean!
Fix not thy thoughts upon this life,
Wherein each man is but a while.

The kings of the world, their death is sorrow,
Unless they spend wealth and food,
Unless themselves they contend for fame:
No hard, no harsh man goes to Heaven.

I am Colum Cille the pure,
Little have I kept in my own hand:
From the day that I came into my body
I never did but according to God's will.

II.

Ornait's Lament for Laidngen.

Cornac's Glossary (Translation, p. 26).

(H. 3. 18, p. 64c and 633.)

Breisiu .i. teibrisi, ut dixit Ornait oc cāiniud¹⁾ Laidgein:²⁾

Dethbir dam ce nī antais
adām abra³⁾ di brēisi:⁴⁾
nī pa fāilid Laidgēn⁵⁾ clam,
cid ē marad⁶⁾ tarm ēisi.

Translation.

Bréisiu i. e. flowing, ut dixit Ornait when lamenting
Laidgen:

Meet for me, though my two eyelashes
Should not cease from flowing:
Laidgen the leper would not be joyous
Though he were living after me.

¹⁾ Guaire no *add. Corm.*

²⁾ Laidgnein *H.*

³⁾ abrat *H. leg. abrait.*

⁴⁾ breisiu *H. 633.*

⁵⁾ Laignen *Corm.* Laidhgnén *H. 64.* Laidenen *H. 633.*

⁶⁾ mara *H. 64.* marus *H. 633.*



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